

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 863

By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Dr. Milton R. Sewell for
seventeen years of meritorious service as
President of Freed-Hardeman University.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those
citizens, who through their personal and professional efforts have distinguished themselves as
educational leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, these esteemed individuals have made praiseworthy contributions and are
a credit to their respective families, communities, and to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. Milton Sewell, who has served with
acumen and alacrity as President of Freed-Hardeman University for the past seventeen years,
in which position he has earned the respect of faculty members, staff and students alike for his
outstanding work; and

WHEREAS, after stepping down as President, Dr. Sewell will continue to serve Freed-
Hardeman as the school's Chancellor, in which position he will work closely with the university's
development team; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Milton Sewell entered the illustrious world of academia as a diligent
student, earning his diploma from Mars Hill Bible School and obtaining an Associate of Arts
degree from Freed-Hardeman College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harding College; he
furthered his studies at Florence State College, where he received his Master of Arts degree,
the University of Alabama, where he earned a Doctor of Education degree, and completed his
post-doctoral work at Georgia State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sewell brought a wealth of expertise and leadership abilities to the
President's position. He served as a public school teacher and administrator in Alabama and
Georgia, Director of Institutional Advancement and Planning at Freed-Hardeman College, Vice-

President of Institutional Advancement and Planning at Freed-Hardeman College, and President of Mars Hill Bible School, before he became President of Freed-Hardeman University; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Milton Sewell's remarkable tenure, Freed-Hardeman University has experienced historic levels of success and many positive changes, growth, and expansion; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, enrollment has increased by more than sixty percent, the number of Bible majors and minors have grown from eighty to 289, and thirty-nine new undergraduate programs have been added; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Sewell's astute financial guidance, Freed-Hardeman's budget has grown from \$10 million to \$35 million and the endowment dramatically increased from \$6 million to more than \$30 million, allowing for the construction of nine new buildings: the Sports Center, the Brown-Kopel Business Center, the Bulliner-Clayton Visual Arts Center, and three residence halls; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sewell is the deserving recipient of many prestigious awards and has been recognized as the 1983 Freed-Hardeman College Alumnus of the Year, the 1988 Freed-Hardeman College Christian Educator of the Year, the Lions Club District 34L's 1989 Citizen of the Year, and the 1997 University of Alabama Alumnus of the Year; he is also a distinguished member of the Kappa Delta Phi and Phi Delta Kappa societies; and

WHEREAS, despite his busy schedule, Dr. Milton Sewell still finds time to lend his incredible talents to such noteworthy organizations as the Cobb County Association of Educators, the Chester County Lions Club, Rotary Club, the Alabama Reunion Committee, the Tennessee Foundation of Independent Colleges, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities, Missions Resource Network, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which he served as Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep conviction and Christian beliefs, Dr. Sewell demonstrates his steadfast faith as an active and devout member of Henderson Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Milton Sewell epitomizes the indomitable spirit and steadfast commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many awards and accomplishments aside, Dr. Sewell is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of more than forty years, Laurel, who has served with the greatest distinction as First Lady of Freed Hardeman; and he is the proud father of two sons, one daughter, and one foster daughter; and the doting grandfather of six; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Milton Sewell for his dedication to the Church of Christ, Freed-Hardeman University, and the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Milton Sewell for seventeen years of meritorious service as the President of Freed-Hardeman University and to the State of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success as Chancellor of that worthy institution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.